



ACCEPTED/FILED
JAN 8 - 2013
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

November 15, 2012

Secretary Marlene Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

CC Docket No.
96-128

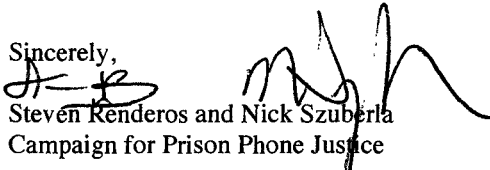
Dear Secretary Dortch:

On behalf of the more than one thousand members of the Campaign for Prison Phone Justice representing every state and the District of Columbia, we would like to invite you to review our petition seeking action on the Wright Petition.

In the pages attached, you will also find comments and stories that reflect the difficulties endured by social service providers, legal representatives, and the family and supporters of prisoners as they struggle to afford the high cost of prison phone calls while working to maintain contact with those in our nation's prisons, detention centers, and youth facilities.

We are pleased that the Federal Communications Commission announced that they are circulating a notice of proposed rulemaking on interstate phone call rules and rates. We believe that this is the first step towards making families stronger and communities safer. We know the road toward a fair phone rate is long. But it's reassuring to know that the FCC, through this notice is committed to protecting vulnerable consumers.

Sincerely,


Steven Kenderos and Nick Szuberla
Campaign for Prison Phone Justice

www.phonejustice.org

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List ABCDE



I support the CAMPAIGN FOR PRISON PHONE JUSTICE. As a Phone Justice Champion, I will ask the FCC and my state legislators to end kickbacks and price gouging by the U.S. Prison Telephone Industry. I believe that families and communities should come before profiteering and kickbacks.

When inmates are held in rural prisons that are often far from their families and support networks, the phone is a vital connection that needs to be available to them and their families, and affordable. And when inmates suffer from isolation due to unjust costs, we all suffer.

I'm on a fixed income and I love talking to my son.

For the last 11 years I have paid at least \$17 for each 15-minute call from my dad. This is definitely a financial strain, but one I am willing to sacrifice for to be able to stay in contact with him. We live in KY and he is in GA so actual visits are few and far between. I wouldn't want to think about what it would be like if I couldn't talk with him, but I know many people simply cannot afford even one call per month.

I am a social worker and they affect my Clients. Also, I believe it is bad for the general population because it discourages the re-entry population.

They affect me greatly. I am on a fixed income and there are months when I cannot talk to my son because I don't have enough money.

First Name(supporter)	Last Name(supporter)	State(supporter)	Comment(supporter_action_comment)
Nick	Szuberla	KY	
Cheryl	Leanza	MD	We all suffer when people are separated from their families and when prisoners have less of a chance to reintegrate into society.
LISA	MATA	CA	my husband is doing time in a CA. prison and phone time is a huge part of our connection. Our phone time is sacred and every year it SEEMS we pay more and more. Either pay my bill or lose precious moments with my husband. He will be free one day, and this is part of what helps us become a better us, communication and connection. Wife in CA.
Michael	Hamden	NC	Outrageous prison phone rates make it impossible to accept calls from incarcerated clients.
Harry	Williams	WA	
Susan	Schwartzkopf	VT	
CHRIS	RUSSELL	NC	They're prohibitively expensive and immoral
Ken	Knabb	CA	
paul	wright	VT	they make it hard to report the news from prison.
Grover	Jackson Jr.	AL	I am not directly impacted now, but I have had incarcerated relatives in the past and I know that the phone calls put a huge dent in an already stressed budget.
Joretta	Wilson	MO	The phone rates are very high and in my case, my local phone service will not allow collect calls.
David	Kreiss-Tomkins	AK	As a former worker for a domestic violence shelter, we were not able to fully serve arrested survivors of domestic violence because of limited telephone contact.
Marguerite	Kearns	NM	New Mexico doesn't have this practice. However, I know about the situation which is outrageous and should be changed. Please add my name!
J	Hood	OR	
K.A.	Owens	KY	
Janet "Queen Nzinga"	Taylor	VA	For some reason, prison calls in Virginia are routed through an area code in Texas. Depending upon your physical location and distance from the prison, the cost of calls can range from \$0.20-\$0.40 or more per minute. The ridiculously high service charge is assessed in the first minute; so you're not saving by cutting the call short. Those types of prices would be "outlawed" if they affected EVERYONE on the outside. You can place a call to a country abroad and pay less per minute.
Rae	Kasdan	VA	We have a family member who is an inmate. We pay high rates.

Leonna Abraham	Brandao, S.W. III	MA	I think it's absurd. The phone companies are taking the prisons over the millions of citizens in america who support them. Perhaps, we should all go on telephone provider strikes. At least strike the provider behind the outrageous prices. When inmates are held in rural prisons that are often far from their families and support networks, the phone is a vital connection that needs to be available to them and their families, and affordable. And when inmates suffer from isolation due to unjust costs, we all suffer.
Jessie	van Eerden	WV	Phone calls are the only way my great grandchildren can talk with their father who is far away and the high rates make it near impossible for them to talk with him on a regular b
Everline H Sykes	Sykes	VA	I'm on a fixed income and I love talking to my son
rita ackerman	Ackerman	VA	Trying to provide support to a homeless friend that is now incarcerated too far away to visit and at \$10/10minute calls I don't want to talk often. How is this helping him stay connected to people who can love and support him when he is released?
Robin	Vestal	MD	
Dolores	Farr	MD	
Minister: Eddie	Miller	VA	
Merrilyn	Kleven	WA	The outrageous charges that are taken right off the top limit calls from my love one and take away from the support of friends and family
Bret	Grote	PA	
Angie	Young	IN	
			1. I am sad and angry to see how the families of those incarcerated are treated. I am sorry to be a part of a state that elects lawmakers and a court system who allow such oppression of those who are often already poor. 2. It is a fact that children who stay in touch with their incarcerated parents are less likely to become incarcerated as adults. I am also angry that my country perpetuates the prison industry in such oppressive and unjust ways. 3. I feel angry that those who want to help with rehabilitation are restricted. This includes the rehabilitation attempts of families of those incarcerated via unnecessarily expensive phone calls.
Sarah	Litchfield	VA	It affects people i know very bad..they have to do w/o so their family member will be able to talk to them and also be able to buy things there to snack on and pay for soda pop. They need changes now !!!
MARIE	BURKHART	KY	I am one of the families paying a high phone bill. I am tied of paying it but what choice do you have.
Frances	Cathey	VA	
Alison	Cornyn	NY	
Rosalind	Burbank Joseph	NY	I receive 2 calls per day (a total of 300 minutes per month) from family incarcerated in federal prison, which I pay for.

Beth	Wanzer	VA	<p>I am a caring citizen who believes we should do everything possible to encourage and maintain links between prisoners and their families. This includes making phone calls affordable!</p> <p>The calls are so expensive its becoming a strain for me. He is so far away and hardly knows any one and let alone the prison official sometimes need's to be reminded that can not treat him or anybody any type of way other than how they suuppose too. Being that I can't always make it that far away I have no other choice buit to settle for the high phone calls. I have seen many times that I will go with out to know that he can call or that he is ok. Its outrageouos that he is eight hours away from home . DOC not only make inmates suffer but also their family members.</p> <p>An injustice to one is an injustice to all.</p> <p>he can make phones home. The prison system is not a place where people go to be reformed it's a selfish, corrupt, and greed consumed with those leaders and business men & women that are using prisoner like pawns for the lining of the pockets. How corrupt our country has become. What has happen to LOVE for one another. We truly have forsaken God's ways and purpose for our lives which mean Hell is rejoicing. Because, it is a for real place "HELL". We must LOVE, as the one and only man that ever lived did, I know it's hard but, we can do it. Please, turn away from corruption. Make our prison systems a place to reform men and women not a place of business. It's not about money; it's about being accountable and doing what's RIGHT.</p> <p>My husband is in prison and I have to pay for his phone calls. This is very stressful on my already tight budget. It is necessary to maintain a healthy marriage and for him to feel like he contribute to our daily life. I recently heard of a phone system called con call home that offer low connection fee and min charges but the catch is that GTL has to connect our line which a telephone number is generated close to the facility where your love one is so the cost of the call is cheaper. Of course GTL wont connect the number cause they want to make the most money possible and by doing so making our lives more difficult. They are robbing us. They are criminals.</p>
Barbara	Bryan	NY	
laquanda kim & raj	lee pickens	VA VA	
Sheena Waggoners	Waggoner	MO	
Angela	Tyler	VA	

annie wilson	wilson	AL
George	Stoney	NY
Jendi		725950 MA
Tony	Barber	NV
Catherine	Miller	AR VA
Angela	Smith	WA
Tabitha	Metreger	MI
colleen	porter	VA
wanda	jackson	la
Carl Franklin	franklin	VA
Rachel	McCoy	KY

prison phone has almost stopped the communication between my son and his family. After the phone cost got so high we decided to just there but then the gas price changed and then we could not do that on a regular basic me being on a fixed income and handy cap. He was so young when he went in that we try to stay in his life as much as possible. But it is almost impossible to do now. My way of travel is not easy, the phones are a complete necessity for me.

My friend and pen pal is in prison in CA, far from his family and friends. His grandkids are growing up without him. I wish he could talk to them more often. Been there and have had my family going through this very thing. I speak with a dear friend who is in prison in Virginia on a weekly basis when funds are available for the call. He has no friends or family on the outside except for me. A twenty minute phone call cost \$11.44, That amount is \$4.00 less than my entire monthly long distance bill. husband is incarcerated in Texas FCI - I participate in prison penpalling and I have had two close friends in jail in the last two years. I have accepted collect calls from Mississippi and Illinois. I was unable to accept any more calls from Mississippi due to the outrageous phone bills. This needs to stop.

Highest Rates for some of the poorest people goes against my morals. my son is in allen correction center in louisiana the prices is so high cannot afford it i have a son in sussex va. and he calls about once a month cause the 10min calls are two high two afford for the last 11 years i have paid at least \$1 / 10r each 15 minute call from my dad. This is definitely a financial strain, but one I am willing to sacrifice for to be able to stay in contact with him. We live in KY and he is in GA so actual visits are few and far between. I wouldn't want to think about what it would be like if I couldn't talk with him, but I know many people simply cannot afford even one call per month.

amalia	deloney	CA	I have experience with this personally and professionally. I have family members and close friends who have done time--and often called us collect. In addition I worked in four states that had massive ICE raids. Whether in prison or detention, we received many collect calls that racked up large bills. And, after the Marshalltown ICE raids, I worked with an Iowa Church whose phone bill was in the thousands, after accepting calls from congregation members who were detained. Communication is a human right and phone communication is an essential need--especially when you have no other options.
Daniel	Perez	CA	Had a family member go thru that situation I can only talk once a month with son. We get about 15 minutes (even though they say 20 minutes). Phone cost, visit expenses and canteen funds for him takes a large chunk of my fixed income.
julia	ganzie	VA	
Timothy	Stallmann	NC	
Jax	Jackson	NY	Any injustice done to someone else is an injustice done to our whole society. they affect me because I am a human rights defender, a justice advocate, and a family member of an incarcerated person
annette	warren dickerson	NY	My husband is an inmate in Georgia. We can only afford one call per week. I live in KY.
Rebecca	Carnell	KY	Prison phone rates are particularly burdensome for Alaskans who have loved ones incarcerated in faraway privately run prisons in Colorado. It is not feasible for families to have any contact with inmates except through phone calls. Lack of contact affects rehabilitation, punishes family members who have not been convicted of any crimes, and is inhumane for inmates and families. Additional financial burdens of phone rates on the families of inmates at many times the rates paid by others is simply preying on those who have no other choice than to cut communication with people they love.
Patricia	Watts	AK	
Robin	Gaura	AZ	I haven't been able to talk to my son since he was incarcerated/ I have two loved ones serving life without parole in PA. They live far from where I do. I am on SSI. It costs me a \$25/mo. fee for long distance which I already carry through Comcast and then another \$6.50 per 15 min. phone call which I must pay for up front. People with Verizon don't have to do this, but I can't get Verizon where I live because of the monopoly system. I rarely get to speak to my loved ones and can hardly write due to wrist problems. Something needs to be done!
Donna	Hill	PA	

Patrick	Vizenor	MN	I spent 10 years in the federal Bureau of Prisons paying \$3.50 per 15 minute phone call which is at least 350% the going street rate for a long distance call. A retiring BOP administrator of the "Inmate Trust Fund" told us that the staff at our institution was defrauding the Trust Fund by charging not allowed costs to it.
Marsha	Cox	VA	
Laura	Baum	GA	
Jay	Rothschild	IL	This is wrong! To monopolize instead of having free market rates and service provider choice; it weakens family bonds, increasing recidivism; it's unfair extortion from law abiding families to line wealthy corporate pockets and unfair taxation! Unjust media policy affects everybody even if they may not have a direct family relation or loved one behind bars. Through a unified front we can counter the numerous ways that big telecommunications companies take advantage of people, especially the most vulnerable and invisible. 1. I don't think it's healthy for a democracy to make a business out of its prisons. Depriving citizens of their liberty is sometimes necessary but it should never be profitable. 2. The higher fees punish the innocent -- the families of prisoners. Again, for whose profit?
Carlos	Pareja	NY	
sheerly	avni	CA	
Sophia	Reed	VA	I am a social worker and they affect my Clients. Also, I believe it is bad for the general population because it discourages the re-entry population
Jennifer	Owens	KY	
Kal	Fisher	CA	
Leila	Choudhury	VA	I am ashamed when the rich get richer off the suffering of the poor in America.
Sheri	Randolph	CA	
Lorraine	Fay	MS	
Gwylene	Gallimard	SC	I am not paying these rates now, but for over a decade I did. A fifteen minute call cost \$8.00 at the time. I spent thousands of dollars during that decade, and it is very sad that the families of prisoners are victimized through no fault of their own. Can't stand abuse of that sort I once was in prison and could not call home because my family could not afford the way the phone system charge for a call. Prison already tears families apart. Phone are the last link of communication and the current price gouging practices is unconscionable.
Christine	Garcia	VA	
Charles	Modiano	MD	
Debbie	Murphree	AL	They affected me in 1999, and early 2000 when my husband and I had to experience high rates...It put an awful strain on our already low income...and we had to do without in order to afford the phone rates...Communication is a very important thing when a loved one is in prison.

Tori	Miller	GA	they consume alot of my money so i know my love one is ok, pleaseknow it hurts us the families not the inmates
Kem	Swift	GA	I can't afford to call my uncle, who is in prison in Georgia.
Malkia	Cyril	CA	I can't afford to call my uncle, who is in prison in Georgia.
Malkia	Cyril	CA	I can't afford to call my uncle, who is in prison in Georgia.
Malkia	Cyril	CA	It costs hundreds of dollars a month for us to receive calls while working on our daughter's legal cases. This is designed to break family ties and profiteers must be stopped.
Cam	Tilley	AZ	
Erick	Boustead	MN	
Lewis	Wallace	IL	My friend in prison is hard-pressed to call me...when he even gets phone calls at all. He can't work or make money where he is, so it is just debt, debt, debt. Families should have the right to speak to their love ones without undue financial burden.
Anna	Diehl	NY	I have several friends and loved ones who are incarcerated in Virginia and elsewhere. I have had to severely limit the number of calls I can accept.
Janet "Queen Nzinga"	Taylor	VA	I have several friends and loved ones who are incarcerated in Virginia and elsewhere. I have had to severely limit the number of calls I can accept.
Janet "Queen Nzinga"	Taylor	VA	NYS has what every state should have, reasonably priced prison phone calls. It took a long battle to get. I support any efforts to spread prison phone justice.
Judith	Brink	NY	

Renea	Alameda	TX
tracy	johnson	VA
Clarissa	Mikkelson	OR
Eva	Larios	TX

It is said that those without fathers are more likely to become delinquent and end up incarcerated, a vicious cycle that is hard to break but not impossible if there is communication between the parent and child. Something that could be the missing link for a better future for children with an incarcerated parent. A phone call from daddy makes a world of difference in my child's daily routine, her self confidence and her ability to do well in school. When she is not able to hear from him for long periods of time, she begins to feel neglected, unloved and loss of self respect, and I can see a change in her attitude towards others as well. She isolates herself and seems to lack any interest in school activities. Children need the support of both parents, if not financially, than at least emotionally. I believe It is better for a child to be happy and poor than to be angry and poor. The common denominator between a gallon of milk and the phrase "I love you" or "how was your day?" is that both are essential to a child's development coming from both parents. Yet, the price for a gallon of milk is around \$3.80 and the price to accept charges for a collect call from daddy is an alarming \$4.69 for the first minute and .69 for each additional minute, with a 15 minute time limit. Often times, the call is disconnected before she is able to finish telling him how her day went, this seems to rip her apart every time as she tries to explain how she feels..."my heart feels broken" she cries, and she tells me "I didnt get to tell him goodbye or that I love him" I can only imagine a family of several children in need of communicating with their father. I believe inmates who are able to stay connected to their loved ones through communication are able to focus more on change for the better when they return home, discussing plans for the future rather than giving in to criminal activity behind bars. "Lack of communication between inmates and loved one's while paying a debt to society, results in lack of they affect me because although my poohbear has time its nice to hear his voice and to be a little involed in our daughters life but it is getting crazy with the rates and all i dont know how long i will be able to keep it up. I'd like to be able to talk to my husband and it not cost an arm and a leg.

I have two kids my husband.been in jail 5 months he was in baker st those calls were not cheap for 20 mins I would have to take from,my savings for. Calls now hes in newton county for 15min that is its 11 00,dollars wtf is going on here I feel like a victim this is fraud my kids need to talk to there dad I cant afford it im hurt something has to change who are the real crimial here its aint the ones in jail it aint my kids it aint me but yet we still paying the price have mercy fcc ,state

Eva	Larios	TX	I have two kids my husband.been in jail 5 months he was in baker st those calls were not cheap for 20 mins I would have to take from,my savings for. Calls now hes in newton county for 15min that is its 11 00,dollars wtf is going on here I feel like a victim this is fraud my kids need to talk to there dad I cant afford it im hurt something has to change who are the real crimial here its aint the ones in jail it aint my kids it aint me but yet we still paying the price have mercy fcc ,state
Angela	Diaz	AZ	I have two family members serving lengthy sentences in two different states. The high cost of telephone calls makes it a hardship on my family. We are unable to speak often due to the unnecessarily high fees. The telephone is the only way my daughter can communicate with her father other than letters because traveling out of State to visit is a luxury we cannot afford. Please reconsider these fees to make it more affordable for the families of the incarcerated.
Kristi	Black	CA	I had family members that were locked up for years and prison phone rates made it impossible for my family to stay in regular contact with them. It was heartbreaking to not be able to tell them to stay positive and keep going on a regular basis, knowing that these calls, whatever length, were integral to helping them not loose hope.
lisa	haugh	PA	it is a hard enough burden when a loved one goes to prison and you dont have the income of that person. then to gouge the phone calls is totally insane. This has affected me greatly because it doesn't allow me to enough money to support my son inside and still help support the rest of his siblings with the increased amount that is being asked for phone calls. Please stop the kickbacks and allow hardworking families the right to talk with their loved ones incarcerated.
Christine	Griffin	VA	They affect me greatly. I am on a fixed income and there are months when I cannot talk to my son because I don't have enough money.
Rose	DePino	IL	the prison phone rates affect our ability to speak with our loved family member in the Calif Mens Colony. Not only that, the guards break into the calls and harass the inmate while we are talking with him.
Peter	Basso	CA	It's a ripoff and a scam, the prices are shamefully expensive.
Betty	Yu	NY	
Betty	Yu	NY	
Jesse	Galvan	TX	
Andrea	Quijada	NM	
Nora	Ferrell	IL	
Andrea	Quijada	NM	
Leticia	Medina	TX	

Leticia	Medina	TX	They are further tearing apart my community by cutting off necessary communications to keep our families and incarcerated loved ones connected and healthy.
Danielle	Mkali	MN	
Andrea	Quijada	NM	
Andrea	Quijada	NM	
Betty	Yu	NY	
candy brewer	Brewer	GA	They affect my friends who have loved ones in prison. I have missed out two credit cards and now can only talk once a week and I hear stories from my husband who is incarcerated about others that cant call out at all because of the price and have no visit's because they are located so far from home. They say we need to keep contact with our family to help with their rehabilitation but then they make it so hard. Also they treat the family like they are the ones in prison. We did nothing but yet we have to pay thousands to have our family treated like humans. It should be inhumane for them to not be able to call out at all or for it to be so costly that they have to choose not to. The bills are too high i pay 7.25 per call fo only 20 minutes. Cant afford to pay the cost and viait my grandson while he is incarcerated but I try to manage the expense.
Deborah A. Green	Green	VA	We support the movement to end mass incarceration and to eliminate the hihg cot of prison phone calls. So many families do not have ways to communicate to their loved ones. Key support systems have been locked up and keys have been thrown out - outrageous phone rates make the criminal injustice system intolerable. The whole family is locked up together.
annette	warren dickerson	NY	
Kruti	Parekh	CA	
Pedro	Joel	CA	
Pedro	Joel	CA	
cbcory	Cory	CO	Stop the high phone rates so families can stay connected! High phone rates contributes to a criminal injustice system! I am in Colorado. My daughter is in a prison in Michigan. Because of the recent increase in phone calls by MDOC, many prisoners will NOT have contact with their loved ones. PERIOD! The recent change in visiting hours at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility means that my wife (who has MS) and I will be forced to sit in the waiting area for hours waiting our turn. Trust me, I have waited hours, even though we were there at the beginning of visiting hours. DO NOT get there too early or you will be asked to leave. I obviously am not a Michigan resident, but I ask for all your help in getting this situation reversed.
Lu	Sarah	IL	

John R	Johnson	MI	I do not drive and my friend is in Muskegon as I am in Saginaw. I am on disability and have limited money to keep in touch as I am the only friend that supports him.
John R	Johnson	MI	I do not drive and my friend is in Muskegon as I am in Saginaw. I am on disability and have limited money to keep in touch as I am the only friend that supports him.
John R	Johnson	MI	I do not drive and my friend is in Muskegon as I am in Saginaw. I am on disability and have limited money to keep in touch as I am the only friend that supports him.
Sandra	Girard	MI	I have both friends and clients in prisons who call me. I cannot afford to talk with them as frequently as I would like when phone rates are inflated above normal rates.
Robert	Hart	MI	My son is locked at the Michigan Reformatory, in Ionia, Michigan. The new phone charges by PCS/MDOC restrict our contact, to two or three calls a week to one or two. The price that PCS charges includes a "tax" and "service fee" that both the MDOC and the Michigan Governor's office say isn't there. But PCS states in an email to me that those two "fees" exist. The old company did not charge these two fee's.
jeri	tincher	MI	Unable to keep in contact with family member. Inability to pay. Causes depression, fear and anxiety for all family members of person incarcerated. Mothers, children, wives, whole family suffers with the prisoner. It's unfair to punish the innocent. Drop the phone rates!
Lois	Demps	MI	The rates in Michigan went into effect two weeks ago. I was laid off from my job on June 10, 2011. I usually talk with my nephew every Saturday. Since the rates went into effect, I haven't talked to him for two weeks.
Nichole	Harrison	MI	I have a 19 yr old in the prison system that I have to pay for so that he can keep in contact with our family.
Kathey	Bailey	MI	I have a son in prison! So sick of the government ripping off people. It is unfair to ask the family members to pay extra cost just to make the prisons money. Start letting the ones out that are in there pass there sentenced time.
victoria	walton	MI	My fiance is currently in chippewa facility and we now have limit out talk time, besides him being across mackinaw bridge i can't visit much at all,
Justin	Ross	OH	Someone we just met and were trying to help landed in jail. I can't afford to take his calls to see how else I can still help. I feel like I am leaving him high and dry.
Keith	Link	MI	At this time it doesn't but when I was incarcerated, I wasn't able to talk to my loved ones because the cost was too expensive.
ann	Sproule	MI	I have a son in prison

Lois	Demps	MI	<p>pennisula in Michigan. He is in a level 5 prison and I don't drive. I haven't seen him for a year. The phone is the only direct communication I have with him. I was laid off from my job with the Lansing School District in June 2011. This means money is tight. This really adds another financial burden to families. I send him money to buy things he needs, and the food is bad so I send him money for food purchases (another outsourced item). There are many mentally ill people in this prison so I need to be able to contact him in real time, to be sure he is safe. Michigan Department of Corrections seems to be punishing and making the families pay as much as possible along with those who are in prison. It's immoral.</p> <p>my husband is incarcerated and these astronomical charges will hurt us financially. There will be less money for me to send him for his personal needs since the prison he is at refuses to give him a job even after repeated requests. Also I had a private phone line for him that will no longer work with this PCS system. Previously it work with Embark and we helped several other prisoners sign up for the system. We saved a tremendous amount of money.</p>
Barb Isham	Isham	MI	<p>my husband is incarcerated and these astronomical charges will hurt us financially. There will be less money for me to send him for his personal needs since the prison he is at refuses to give him a job even after repeated requests. Also I had a private phone line for him that will no longer work with this PCS system. Previously it work with Embark and we helped several other prisoners sign up for the system. We saved a tremendous amount of money.</p>
Barb Isham	Isham	MI	<p>I take the complaint phone calls re: this issue in our state office for NAMI</p>
Kristen	Taylor	MI	<p>(National Alliance on Mental Illness)</p> <p>my loved one is in a Michigan facility, which recently switched to PCS service, doubling the cost both to him and myself. When I put money on my account so he can call me collect, they charge me a minimum of \$3.95 on top of the \$10.00 I can afford in order for him to call me. This only allows 3 calls!! Before the switch, we would be able to have 5-6 fifteen minute precious calls. I am struggling to make ends meet, and he needs to be able to hear my voice more often then 3-4 time a month!</p>
Denise	Burnworth	MI	
Denise	Burnworth	MI	

Candelario	Vazquez	NM
Jennifer M	Weishaar	KS
linda	krogh	WA
Amanda	Sisk	KS
ulrike	riedl	PA
ulrike	riedl	PA
John	Eastwood	VA
Laura Jean	Bailey	IL
Angie	Zamorano	CA

Separation due to incarceration, for families and individuals and their loved ones is a serious thing in our communities. If on top of all the trauma of being arrested, shackled and imprisoned, you see your loved ones behind bars then almost never able to reach them, that leads to a lot of anxiety. This anxiety leads to sickness in the family, and more distancing of prisoners from loved ones. Love requires communication, if you place profits over communication you are damaging inmate's last hopes, and helping spread sickness in the community. That's how I am affected, because i live in the community and I'm seeing my loved ones be disappeared, and no sustainable way to keep communicating them.

I am saddened that Washington State has the highest kickback rate of 51%. Unhappy that we punish family and friends and the incarcerated with high phone rates. My husband is now 198 miles away so Im being charged long distance on top of the 6 dollars per 20 mins a phone call!!

I was incarcerated for 4 years and during this time my family lost their telephone service due to the over price phone calls from the prison. During the last 3 years of the 4 years, I had no contact with them at all, making my re-adjustment to society a much more difficult time. We had lost the connection we once had prior to being lock up.

the outside world. To deny them these important connections is to hamper any rehabilitation efforts. Those phone calls can be staff-monitored if there are any concerns about illegal activity being directed from inside the prison. Also, as a civilian, I understand that prisoners are calling collect to try to get legitimate phone numbers and information so they can use someone else's number to try to bypass the incredible cost of making a phone call. A friend of mine experienced an attempt at obtaining her information this way, and the fact that civilians are at risk because the U.S. Prison Telephone Industry wants to make money off of prisoners is a BAD idea.

It a creates a bigger financial hardship to stay connected with loved one.

Scott	Sanders	IL
Andrea	Wells	CT
Peter	Kuttner	IL
Michelle	Pettis	VA
Madelyne	Beddoes	MI
Ashley	Frillman	MO

my exceptionally talented intelligent neighbors from that have a not so common 18 y.o. son who screwed up and was sent to a boot camp for first time offenders in Illinois. That Iranian family's resources were stretched to the limit and beyond what with legal expenses, worsening economy, and costly harassment from the scum that helped get the boy in trouble. Illinois is one of the worst prison phone kickback offenders. The boy's father, Farhad, always said the phone calls were way way too expensive. Those unjust phone bills contributed to the family's need to go on township financial assistance. How long will this type of gouging be allowed to continue?

Another symptom of a dysfunctional telecommunications industry that has reaped so much reward while not even taking care of their own workers

I am 67yrs old and on fixed income (social security), so, like millions of others are dealing with the mess this country is in. Not enough money to go around, talking to my son is VERY important to me, so some bill gets put on back burner for the month, especially since they doubled the phone rates. it is hard enough for us to adjust, put it is even harder when someone thinks they are not getting enough money in their pockets. What difference does it make, they consider us all low lives, so why would they care as long as they are lining their pockets, and they can buy that big new house or car.

Just this year I have spent \$2568.98 not including the fees. I have to pay \$6.95 everytime I add money with a credit card and if I have to use my walmart card an additional \$3.00. Now I can only usually add \$25.00 at a time so even if you take \$2568.98 and divide that just by the \$6.95 fee I have spent \$102.76 just in this fee alone. Leaving my total spent at \$2671.74. Now all this is for a LOCAL number as well! I spent around \$50.00 atleast a month to have a prepaid cell phone so I can have a local number so it is cheaper. Everywhere I look I see some kind of correctional institution having said we encourage family contact. Well that AWESOME but at what cost?..I am a single mother of 4 children, going to school full time. It is a struggle everyday to make sure my husband can call home for atleast 15 mins a day to see how the kids day went. I understand he is in trouble and has to suffer the time but people also make mistakes and learn

Kelly	Murphy	CO	I am personally affected by having a loved one in prison and having to pay exorbitant costs to simply communicate with him. Fortunately, I have more resources than most of the faults/individuals dealing with this issue - however, one premise of our justice system is to rehabilitate those behind bars and yet many cannot afford to have access to the outside world and with those who care for them most. I think it speaks volumes to corporations capitalizing on others misfortunes and have added yet one more layer to the commercialization of the American "justice" system
MATTIE	OULTON	CT	I CAN'T AFFORD TO TALK TO MY SON FOR MORE THAN A FEW MINUTES A WEEK. I am an advocate for Native American inmates in the State of Maine. When they are going through court hearings, they call me. When there is a birth, they call me; when there is a death, they call me; when no one is there for them, they call me. I get a lot of calls and of course they call collect. In Maine it is now 31 cents a minute! We are a poor non-profit, at the point of maybe having to refuse some of these calls because we can not afford them.
Valerie	Cartonio	XX	95% of all prisoners will be released. It is only prudent that we build and maintain family relationships and support systems in order to reduce recidivism. Anything that hinders these relationships cost each and every one of us, whether we are directly affected by the criminal justice system or not! I receive calls every day from heart broken and distraught family members who cannot speak with their loved ones due to lack of funds to pay the huge costs of phone calls from the jails. Two weeks before Christmas Spokane County Sheriff's Office replaced the pre-paid long distance telephone service with a new service with no notice to the inmates or families. The new system requires a minimum payment of \$25.00 with an \$8.50 service charge. It is impossible to transfer the remaining funds from the previous account and the refund will take up to four weeks. In order to provide telephone contact to the inmates, families must choose who will not get that present under the tree. I am outraged at the extreme service fee and the inconvenience of having to change services two weeks before Christmas. prison phone rates have affected me for the last 8 months. because of the enormus fees involved with phone calls home we can not talk as long or as often. i am a single mom and i feel the exorborent prices that the phone companys charge (especially GTL) is in fact a sin!
Chad	Dimmick	NY	
Latisha	Campbell	GA	
David	Babb	TX	
Muin	Daly	CA	
Terri	Anderson	WA	
lisa	haugh	PA	

Dona	Edmondson	VA	the cost for each 20 minute call is \$4.50 .My calls are with Global Tel-Link which allows only \$100 each month for calls.My husband and I are older individuals who talk to each other only twice a week for 20mins only but if an emergency were to occur which would force us to talk more than 20 mins a night or more than twice a week it's possible we could run over the \$ 100 dollar limit.If a inmate does that your phone is placed on a block and your credit rating is affected. Global Tel Link drops your allocated amount to \$50 dollars a month if more than one block is placed on your phone in a year. Than your allocated amount is dropped to \$25 a month for the third block placed on your line. These companies continue to perpetuate the prison industrial slave complex by also enslaving the families of the incarcerated individual thereby reaping the rewards of the master who also has his or her hands in the merry-go-round that keeps the rich rich and the poor poor. Let's get these corporations out of this
Lindsay	Michie	VA	he only way I can speak to my fiancée on a regular basis is by setting aside a large sum of money every month. The only way his family and friends can talk to him is through me as the majority of them can't afford the phone calls. If I didn't pay for these calls he would have very little outside contact with any one and this has a direct effect on his morale and rehabilitation.
Elena Bost	Treers	NM	It affects all of us, because the inmates need contact with their family and loved ones on the outside. This affects their morale and the likelihood of their doing well when they are released. It is an inhumane injustice to target this group of people with price gouging. It is unfair that their struggling families should have to make tough choices about how to spend their money because of this profiteering. People in prison and their families suffer way too much already. The rates they charge are too much where I had to turn my home phone off cause the bill don't stop and now when we want to hear his voice we got to go and visit him in Sussett 1 in Waverly, Va. we need some refunds instead of price gouging and kickbacks
Carl Franklin	franklin	VA	Choosing to go direct action at a protest I was sentenced to two months in prison in 2007. This small window opened my eyes to the reality of the loss and isolation our system serves Due to my privilege based on my small misdemeanor that landed me in federal prison, I was able to make phone calls but was still burdened and impacted by the high costs and outrageous lines. I will never forget my experience there. I am forever changed. Let's be humane and make it easier for our brothers and sisters to stay connected to family, it is the last outlet in a world so disconnecting and estranged,-
Melissa Patricia	Helman Cabargaf	WI NC	

Vivian	Penda	MD	I can not receive telephone call from my son at NBCI in Cumberland Maryland because the cost of the calls are too expensive. my husband is in prison, and in order to communicate with him, I have to pay extremely high prices... I sometimes can't afford to pay my bills because I want the simple joy of hearing the sound of my husband's voice. Something has to change.
Charlotte	Graham	TX	Everyone should be able to stay in touch with their families. The calls are not only expensive,we continually have technical problems due to the outdated telephones that he has to use.He has to hold the cord into the phone just to be able to hear me.Phone calls are very important to us.It helps to maintain a healthy and stable relationship.
Robin	Letterman	MO	
Natalie	Upchurch	TX	I think it's ridiculous when we already pay for phone service, why can't they just call us at home on our regular line through our own service? It's because they can't make money off of it, that's why! They ought to be able to call us as much as they can, this way it costs me another \$56 dollars a month just for my husband to call me his full allotted minutes. This is on top of my regular phone bill. They also will just cut us off for no reason, sometimes just randomly, an electronic voice says "No 3rd party calls!" We are just simply talking to each other with no 3rd party at all, it's crazy. Also they have to talk into a system that is based on voice recognition. If they have a cold or their voice changes for any reason the phone system won't let them call out. Securus is our phone system company & it is very bad. The customer services reps half the time don't even know enough to help you, & there's all kinds of problems like service getting cut off or frozen for problems they've caused. They've given the money I sent to another person, & wouldn't return it to me, & they've cut off our service because they lost my I am an attorney and cannot talk to my clients as frequently or for as long as i would like. I also have friends in prison and it is almost impossible to accept phone calls from them in Michigan under the new phone contract.
Judy	Gilliam	MO	
Janice	Gilliland	TX	I cannot call my brother in Alaska because they won't allow any phone calls in. My brother can't call me or anyone else in our family nor any friends because the price of phone calls is sky high obviously, the for-profit USA Police-State prison industry is taking advantage of inmates and anyone who contacts them. I have lost connection to my son because I can't afford the exhorbiant costs of prison calls. it;s so unfair. We can't visit because of the distance betwwne home and prison and hearing from him costs too much on a limited income.
Sandra	Girard	MI	
Gary	Thomas	WV	
Barbara	Fair	CT	

georgia	ramey	VA	<p>i am a single grandmother i have had to raise 5 grandkids on my own i am on disability and it is really hard to keep money for my grandson to call from prison please help the phone calls lower for me</p> <p>I had to get a mobile phone with the same area code as the prison so I could</p> <p>afford to speak with my sons and to enable their children to speak with them. Even doing that it is very expensive. The local County jail is really bad to speak with him it costs 5.00 for a 20 min. phone call and you have got to have a credit card to purchase 25.00 or 50.00 at a time and there is a service charge taken off the top of that. I am just greatfull I am able to do it and really feel bad for all that can not even say Merry Christmas I Love you and miss you. I pray you will do something about this problem. thanks Jan</p>
Janiece Deborah	Hernandez Gallahan	KS VA	<p>The rates make it very difficult to speak with your loved ones and offer them encouragement and prayer. The rates are so high that it is not possible to even afford to speak with your loved ones often. Yes, they have made a mistake, and are incarcerated for one reason or another, however that does not mean that they are not loved.</p> <p>It cuts our communication to practically nil. It effects only those that can ill afford the exorbitant rates, inmates families. The only reason is MONEY and the greed of the prison system. This just proves that not only does the inmate pay for their crime, but so does their family.</p> <p>Let's put an end to kickbacks. Phone charges should be even across the board. Prisons should not have the privilege of charging what ever they see fit. Put an end to financial gain through incarceration.</p> <p>I do not know anyone in prison but I feel strongly that bonds between inmates and family must be supported during incarceration to facilitate an inmate's reentry into society. Price gouging in the prison telephone industry MUST end. I have a husband in prison, anf the calls are so high we hardly get to talk there has to be a way to lower the cost for families</p>
Stacy	Ricketts	SC	
Pamela		765753 AL	
Tara	Norman	VA	
Pat	Holliday	VA	
kathryn n Tammy	kinney schmitt Evans	KS IL IL	
Jack	Elias	CO	<p>My stepson is in prison for a lengthy stay. Calls are great, as visits are difficult due to distance. Fair rates would be a help.</p> <p>in 25 days I have spent over 250 in calls, 15 minute calls that are \$8.95 per call, and to add money there is a fee of 6:95</p> <p>I will need to find part time employment to keep the line of communication open for my son in between visits but hearing his voice brings so much needed comfort for a short time.</p>
cindy	jackson	TX	
cindy	jackson	TX	

nuri	nusrat	CA	I had a friend in prison when I was younger, and had almost no money. It cost me hundreds of dollars to have a few half hour conversations with him. High prison phone rates are cruel and counterproductive to rehabilitation and reintegration to society. These companies should not be making obscene profits from the tragedy of incarceration.
pete	tridish	PA	AFFECTED ME AND MY FAMILY GREATLY
ANGELA	HUNTINGTON	NY	Please add Consolidated Phone Services to this initiative
Ibi	Cole	IL	I have not been personally affected, but I am very angry at the injustice of this ridiculous rate that prisoners have to pay if they are to talk to their families. This is the worse kind of blackmail, in which the prisoners have no choice - if they can't pay, they don't get to talk to their loved ones. What kind of fair treatment is that? Aren't the prisoners and their families already suffering enough?
Anne	Schultz	IL	
Ann	Canale	MO	as a senior it impact me terrible. But I also know that the communication between the prisoner and family is vital.
silvy	ovalle	NY	My pen pal is now in Ad Seg (solitary confinement) so he is not allowed to receive or make ANY phone calls anymore. This isolation is true for all California prisoners in solitary. So I believe that families and communities should be able to communicate to stay connected, whether politically or financially. Any barrier to this communication is a human rights violation
Sharon	Martinas	CA	Sometimes the calls drop, ensuring an additional reconnection fee should a second call be placed. Sometimes phone lines are blocked if there is a balance -- even when no bill is outstanding -- meaning I have had to pay bills in advance of incurring them. Yet when I've tried to place a lump sum, it was not allowed, meaning one has to pay incrementally, ensuring a "processing fee" each time. Literally, if I don't have money my loved ones and I cannot speak. It is unfair that only people with money can maintain relationships. Keeping a connection to the family and friends is critical for reducing recidivism rates yet multiple barriers -- financial being a huge one -- are placed on staying connected. I have to limit the conversations that I have with my son to just twice a month. But if we have something important things to discuss about his case, I need to speak with him more regularly, but because of the rates charged per call, I have to enforce the limit.
LORRENE MAYNARD-CROWELL	Crowell	VA	

carol	sampsel	OR
Brian	Wiles	CA
Brian	Wiles	CA
Vivian	Penda	MD
Marsha	Cox	VA
Maria	Hernandez	FL
Noelle	Hanrahan	PA
linda	johnson	MD
Rebecca	Swope	PA

Best way around these ridiculous rates is to get a cheap pay as you go phone with area code of prison. That way they can call you like a local call, no matter where you are. This is the cheapest way I have found to talk to my son after years of lining the pockets of the white collar criminals in the prison phone industry!

I am the mother of an incarcerated son, and it cost me plenty to talk with him. We must find a way to outlaw this price gouging by the powers to be.

Prison phone rates do not affect me directly, but I feel for families and their imprisoned loved ones. We can be more humane on every level in this area. END
KICKBACKS ON PRISON CALLS
 The stress and hassle of keeping on top of how my friends and colleagues can call is intense. You know Global Tel Link is a corporation profiting off of people inside. It is wrong to profit off newage slavery.

Prison rates affect me today when they take advantage of those I work with who are either incarcerated and or are families and loved ones of those incarcerated. The costs are extreme and unnecessary, the local, state and federal agencies should not be making money off of those who are already oppressed. My family paid outrageous amounts, between \$300 and \$400 a month for the 10 months while I was incarcerated in the state of MD. Their savings were drained just so they could correspond with their only daughter who was pregnant with their first grandchild at the time. The "BUSINESS" part of the commission is sickening to say the least. We as a society are focusing on reentry and how to lower the rates of recidivism. Limiting the accessibility of contact in maintaining family relationships and social supports does not line up with our goal of successful reentry. Charging these high cost rates makes it nearly impossible for most to maintain any relationships with their families and children, let alone healthy relationships. The "security" reason behind these cost are about as bogus as they come. Names of the individuals inmates call have to be approved on a phone lists by the facility before any calls are able to made. Only a certain number of individuals can be placed on an inmates list at a time. Last but not least all calls are subject to monitoring. Stop the cover up by using "security" as a reason. End the kickbacks and the injustice being done to those who are trying to maintain their families and social supports, after all, is that not a goal of our communities?

robin	scott	TX	it's just to high for the loved one's to stay in touch with their loved one's;problems like this is why inmates gets in trouble,cause of things like,they lose their power,self-esteem,because they can't talk to their loved one's behind the bars;why can't something be done about this situation,the states can't say they don't have any money,cause they are lying if no money why do you see new freeways everywhere you see;so why this problem can't be SOLVED ? I have known the fury and anguish of trying to communicate with a loved one in prison. The phone companies do everything to PREVENT me from communicating with him, which only hurt him and made it that much more difficult for him once he got out. This is a basic human right! Do the right thing FCC!
Jen	Wager	NJ	I am outraged by the children of those incarcerated being discouraged from keeping in contact with their incarcerated parents. Those keeping the children are the ones who must pay outrageous fees. Those who keep in contact with their incarcerated parents are LESS likely to follow in their footsteps. Cutting by parental contact is one way governments allow the prison industry to perpetuate itself.
Sarah	Litchfield	VA	I agree that GTL is a ripoff. It is just crazy what they charge. They just figure that you either pay the bill or they cut you off. You have no other choice.
linda	sweeney	VA	my loved one calls and sometimes it is hard to find the money.
Jennifer	Heller	IL FL	
Ms. Ruthe	de la Rosa	CA	not really, but I feel for all the injustices done to women, esp in jails across the country....women need to get more respect....help the moms please...in GOD we trust...save the children...if you were a child of a jailed mom...how would you feel???
Lillian	Marigny	OK	I have not been personally affected by phone rates in prisons, however, I am deeply disturbed that this situation has been going on. I have known the pain of trying to communicate with some one who is incarcerated.We didn't even have enough time to discuss how I could have helped him before we were cut off and I accepted the call and would have paid more to finish our conversation although it would have been a hardship. I didn't even have a choice!
Bill	Plieseis	MN	
Michael	Hoechstetter	OH	
kristen	molitor	MI	
Sandy	Hardwick	MI	This is inhumane.to children and RELATIVES WHERE IS YOUR COMPASSION ?
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Sandy	Hardwick	MI	This is inhumane.to children and RELATIVES WHERE IS YOUR COMPASSION ? The cost of phone calls make it even harder on the Kids and familys on the outside.We need contact with our loved ones and they need it with us too.Kids need contact with the parents.
Erica Tanya	martin Krupat	OR NY	High phone call rates put another unjust barrier between famiies and their loved ones on the inside. We need to be supporting families as they strive to keep their connections alive.
Judy	Larrabee	CA	Communication with family and supportive persons is sometimes the only way to maintain connection and bonding that all humans need - especially in these stressful circumstances. This prison phone call system is immoral and inhumane. in the wallet We must accept -- and pay personally --for collect calls from prisoners who have no family and no income in order to help them with medical, prison condition, legal or bureaucratic problems. It is a finanacial strain to maintain a prison ministry.
AnneMarie Kathy	Polak Tornatore	NY LA	To those who profit from prison and jail phone call gouging....this practice is unethical, immoral, and unjustifiable!!! IT MUST BE STOPPED!!!! Very expensive and hard to stay in touch with husband while he is incarcerated.
Val	Hymes	MD	Not fair to families with little income.
June	Levier	KS	My father was imprisoned most of my hounq life and I can only imagine the impact to my grandmother on Mother's Day all those years we dont have a lot of money already and prison phone rates dont help, me and my mom are the only family my sister has and only ones who pay for the phone calls.
Susanne	Murphy	OR	
Alexis	De Veaux	NY	
alex Rinna	rivas Rem	CA WA	
leah	miner	OR	my husband is incarcerated, and i am raising our kids and trying to support him. its very rough to make it month to month.

RHONDA	LOVING	TX
Trina	Cooper	OR
Trina	Cooper	OR
DAVID	SCHLEICHER	NY
Traci	Bowermaster	MN
Melissa	Delgado	OR
Melissa	Delgado	OR
richard	gilbert	CA
Ruthie	Epstein	NY

I am on a fixed income which is 1500.00 below the poverty level. I need phone calls to home help to rehabilitate the prisoner and re-entry into society. The high cost of these calls prevents my son (who is indigent) from calling home. He has a brain disorder and needs the support of his family for his disability. It is incredible the prison budget has been cut so bad when the "system" is getting kick backs from the phone calls. Also Texas Department of Criminal Justice needs to allow calls to cell phones. Please stop the price gouging and kickbacks! If this was any other population of the USA it would be dealt with severely. Our voices will not be silent anymore!

I have had to cut back on many things

I have had to cut back on many things

PRISON PHONE RATES ARE A TERRIBLE UNACKNOWLEDGED
 SCANDAL THAT NEEDS TO BE RESOLVED IMMEDIATELY.

It is too expensive for me to have my brother call me directly. We have to make arrangements to talk when I'm at my parents house which isn't very often.

in about five months. Early on during his incarceration we decided that it was crucial to our success as a couple and as a family to talk every day. We made arrangements to have a cell phone changed to a local number for his area and I budget \$50.00 a month for calls. We've spent over \$2000.00 on phone call over the past 3+ years. We're fortunate that we can afford this luxury; however, many cannot. For many families, including ours, phone calls are the only way to keep in touch on a regular basis and are important to help maintain the family unit. Call rates should be affordable to all inmate families, many of which are already struggling with the other financial aspects of having a loved one incarcerated.

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Cesar	Marroquin	PA	Currently they do not. I have been incarcerated for lengths of time and it was a burden on my family to receive calls from me collect. Statistics show that inmates with a connection to the "outside" do better than those who do not. These are usually the poorest members of society and making a phone call can mean a world of difference in there. My son served six years in California's Division of Juvenile Justice and five years in Corcoran Prison I have spent way too money on phone calls and could have used that to send my son additional care packages or put on his books to help paid his restitution. This also causes family not to talk to there loved ones because they can't afford huge phone bill.
Charlotte	Rapacciuolo	VA	
Laura	Talkington-Brady	CA	
Jill	Huettich	OH	
Barbara	Gottstein	MN	I'll do everything I can to nstop kickbacks to save American families before profitinteeing occurs in USA.
Penny	Adrian	MI	
Ms. Ruthe	de la Rosa	CA	not really, but I am a peep for the peeps.. The only children I have are in prison and it is almost impossible to stay in contact by phone.
Janiece	Hernandez	KS	
Kari	Perez	OK	
shannon	dickey	NM	
Matthew	Cross	MI	I can not always afford his calls. He is very young and in jail for a probation violation. I feel that they are hurting his life in many ways. He needs to talk to loved ones.
			It's affecting us by instead of his son hearing his voice on the phone and I , we will have to go back to writing letters because it's a fraction of the cost. Being a single mom it's tough enough without having to deal with this now. This will have a big impact on his son because we cannot afford to pay these outrageous charges.
Emiriana	Shubert	XX	
Lillie	Branch-Kennedy	VA	THE STORY OF LILLIE BRANCH-KENNEDY, THE WOMAN BEHIND THE PHONE CALL FROM THE Big Stone Gap, VA cost \$7.55. First time offender and incarceration, scared calling home daily equalled \$225.50 per month, \$3,718.00 per year and for 4 years my family spent \$14,872 on MCI prison telephone service/VaDOC to keep our love one sanity. This money could have been better spent on saving for his reentry when he is release. Monies that we could not afford, yet were force to pay because our government refused us justice, equal rights, reforms and accountability by VaDOC and MCI, Global Tel and all other Prison Phone companies.
Lillie	Branch-Kennedy	VA	

Wendy	Huett	VA	Why do we choose to make a situation worse than it already is? To prey on and exploit the weak. Is this all America stands for? This MUST CHANGE - enough is enough! Yes I agree strongly with you - families and communities should come before profiteering and kickbacks!!!!
Keith	DeBlasio	MD	Unfair and unjust TAXES on the children and families who don't deserve to be punished for their loved-one's actions. I have not been able to talk with my son in over two (2) months, and it is very difficult for me to visit him, since he is located over 3 hours away from where I live. We were able to communicate regularly using the FreedomLine phone service, however, the Maryland Department of Correction has stopped our inmates from using this company.
Vivian	Penda	MD	I have spent, literally, thousands of dollars on county and prison phone calls - all within a 5-year time frame. How I would love to help stop the pillaging families of loved ones by the food package companies as well. Thanks for giving me a voice.
Joanne	Scheer	CA	Families are hurting enough through heartbreak, not to mention their pocketbooks. The least the FCC and legislators can do is alleviate the high cost of prison phone calls. I support prison phone justice.
Maria	Hernandez	FL	My nephew is unable to call because of price and time or lack time on prison calling cards.
Theresa	Pepion	MT	i cant afford to accept any calls from loved ones incarcerated. i cant even help if they are there because i cant get the calls.
shannon	myllymaki	MT	i cant afford to accept any calls from loved ones incarcerated. i cant even help if they are there because i cant get the calls.
shannon	myllymaki	MT	The costs are continually rising :even after so called drop in costs. They raise the rate without informing you.
Ruthe	McDonald	NY	I have a brother who is incarcerated, and it's costing a ton of money just to call and say hi, and we can't even talk that long.
donna	Walsh	MI	The rate was outrageous and the amount per call were too expensive. Couldn't afford it. This is not right as it is important for families to support each other and money with a situation like this in prison. It is lonely, monotonous, hellhouse of a life and these are people too. They have families too who love them. Lower the rates and make it affordable for this to happen.
daria	miedzinski	CT	The cost of phone calls from prison affects the communication my son can have with his family and friends. Most of those who would love to talk to him and support him are unable to financially afford the outrageous costs for phone call.
Sheila	Montgomery	OR	Its time to end the price gouging!

Lisa	Wheeler	NC	<p>my husband is 347 miles away. Every 15 minute call takes exorbitant amount of long distance costs out of our "prepaid account", and that's just my account. If he wants to talk to his mom I need to maintain money on her account since calling her incurs the same long distance costs. There have been months were I have spent over \$100 a week on the phone, just so he can have contact with his family. This is robbery!</p> <p>In this day and age, there are alternative means of voice communications. Many are close to being free. So, no matter what a prison gouges from loved ones (or prisoners), it should be considered an act of cruelty. Our laws apply to everyone. Our laws have created the prisons. Everyone is responsible for upholding them [both]. Big business' gouge consumers with outrageous prices whenever there is a means. It is called capitalism. (Shall we begin a conversation on razors?). Simply put, If I can call St. Petersburg, Russia from Boston, MA and speak for 350 minutes (5.8 hrs) for less than \$8.00, I should be able to get a call from a local prison that lasts 30 minutes for a heck of a lot less than \$5.85. I think it is an absolute shame that we punish detainees and their families by charging them exorbitant fees to merely place a call. If we are a society that is truly compassionate, we need to give those who seek rehabilitation all the tools that they need to get support from their loved ones. When my grandson was in prison, I often put through calls for other inmates to their family members. I expect if the rates and rules were more reasonable this would not have been necessary. My boyfriend is unable to call very often due to the excessive charges and that is with me procuring a "local" number that forwards to my out of state phone. He is unable to stay in touch with his elderly aunts due to the high cost of long-distance calls.</p>
Floyd	Fairbanks	MA	
Fabiola	Carrion	NY	
Warren	Smith	WA	
Christina	Chambers	NE	
Morgan	Murphy	DC	
Laurie	Renfro	GA	
Rena	Phillips	FL	<p>Husband in Alabama prison...I live in Florida and phone for first minute cost 5.88 and 89 cents each additional minute for 20 minutes it costs \$30.00</p>

Belinda	Morgret	PA	I have two small children ages four and six, their father has been in prison for three years now. I'am a single mother whom is also a full time college student and full time mommy. I'am currently unemployed until finished with school. I struggle monthly with how I'am going to pay my bills and provide for my children. I also always try to find a way to make sure that my childrens father has some money to call his babies when possible. As you know we do not get child support while a father is in prison, my childrens father was a productive citizen and had a good paying job and was in his 2nd year of college prior to being incarcerated for being in the wrong place at the wrong time (conspiracy). He loves his children and is a great father and it is killing him not being able to speak to them daily, he already misses out of special memories he wants to atleast be able to call and hear there little voices and hear about there days. They My husband and I are on a very low fixed income and our son is in prison. We can not afford the rates they have on the phone now. It's not that his is going to get out soon ,he has life. The families are getting punished for our loved ones crime by not being able to keep in connect with our loved one for what time we have left on earth.
Barbara	Knepper	OR	because I am a widow, only ssi. they charge me between 10.00 and 15.00 to put money into her phone account, charge me again for her calling me, then the number of minutes we talk. it usually cost right at 20.00 per call and that really hurts if she tries to call very often. her daughter is staying with me so we all talk the 30 minute allotment time. other inmates have actually asked if i could call a loved one and relay messages because they can't afford the rates either. this is truly an injustice.
Margaret	Cook	IL	My sister is incarcerated at the Hazelton Secure Female Facility and the rates are extremely high for her to call collect is \$13 per 15 minute phone call.
Jackie	Carr	MD	My dad, closest family member I have and I can hardly talk to him because I can't afford to send him money so he can't afford to call and I live states away. :(I only live about an hour away from my dad. Yet I can barely hear from him because each call is so outrageously expensive. They say family communication and visitation is so important yet they make it difficult and literally impossible for certain people to have that.
Jailyn	Tafolla	CA	
Danielle	Tafolla	CA	
Mel	Motel	VT	
gina	farris	IL	my brother is incarcerated in south dakota and we live in illinois and it is 23 cents a minute for him to call home. that adds up.

Patricia jane	Rickner mcarthur	MI MI
Sharon Elizabeth	Maners claggett-borne	GA MA
Michael Leah BONNIE christina christina	Singletary Sakala STARNES chancey chancey	GA MA TX MI MI
Sabra Anne	Weintraub	OR
daria sharmin	miedzinski sadequee	CT MI

My fiance is in prison we have children out here that we need to keep communication between us and it's a difficult task with how expensive the calls are and for only 15 min it's absolutely crazy and no matter what when you're incarcerated you still need to be able to talk to your loved ones can't tell you how many times I have called family members for others because they cannot afford to put money on their phones and relay messages for them it's a sad thing and people should not have to go through that. Even if you made a 15 min call @ 1.50 think about how many thousands of dollars they would still rake in... it's greedy.... then to even think that every time you put money on your "prepaid account" it's another approx 4.00 just to add money and it doesn't matter the amount you still have to pay it... hopefully this can all come to an end nobody is asking for things to be free but make it affordable for everyone, that's only the right

Rates are high, minutes are low, and then you keep getting interrupted with the recording about being recorded. How dumb is that? Everyone knows the calls are recorded.

It limits contact with friends who are isolated. The prices are high due to kickbacks, the time to talk is very limited due to interruptions, all of which affects communication between us and our son, other family members and friends.

the prices are too high for the allotted time that we have to talk.

It is a big additional expense in my life. Sometimes I don't have the money to pay for the calls when the phone money runs out and I have to wait till I add to it until I have the funds. This is not fair to families, especially in this economy! They are way too expensive and the inmates can't afford it and the family finds it hard to afford the rates as they are so high at least in CT they are. It is outrageous what we are charged.
a lot

Caroline	Brightman	WA
Margaret	Pridgen	VA
Lita	Pepion	MT
john	egan	NY
Renee	Plog	CA
Jeff	Garland	HI
Jamala	Rogers	MO
Katherine	Fennelly	MN
Sally	Whittaker	MO

phone call a day....it is hard to be able to find the extra money to have the contact of my loved one. 20 minutes is all you get and the prices are high and often your calls drop and now you are having to spend more money for another call hoping this time you get your full 20 minutes. Phone calls an important part to keep in contact and to keep spirits up. A day missed seems like weeks. They add up fast and you dont get much time for the price you have to pay along with everything else we all do to keep in contact. Family support is important, but the prices WE have to pay to keep positivity in our loved ones life is beyond what we should be paying.

I find them very expensive. We limit our calls to once every two weeks--the other two weeks are used for gas for the car for visitation. They keep me in poverty as, if we want to talk to our loved one who was coerced in to pleading guilty to a crime he did not commit we have to forgo paying bills and pay rates 10 - 100 times what we pay for our monthly phone bill. It's just another way the Justus system (set up by the white wealthy FOR the white wealthy) keeps people like me in poverty.

They have enraged me for decades. In this day & age there is no excuse for it. The practice only helps keep folks in the prison cycle. It abridges freedom of speech and needs to be abolished post haste. It is an expensive burden for families to communicate with their loved one(s). Add the arbitrary/oppressive nature of prison officials as to who gets to use the phones and your access to the outside world can be totally restricted. I am appalled by the exploitation of inmates and their families by phone companies and private prisons. Telephone is only way to talk to my nephew and we limit it to once a month because of cost. Very limited option.

Beverly	Ratashak	OR
Anna	Babb	NC
E	Fuqua	MI
Scott	King	WV
jerry	moody	TX
Drew Kukorowski	Kukorowski	MA
Alina	Das	NY

hour. I was able to get a local phone number and it dropped the cost to \$1.75 per 1/2 hour. The prison system has change to a new company and everyone now pays \$4.80 per call which has reduced his calls from 22 calls a month down to 8 call per month. My husband are both on Social Security and I work a part time job. Our daughter-in-law puts money on his phone account and we've always tried to pay for the calls he makes to us. On a limited income that has become much harder and we will not be receiving calls very often from him now. The new company makes it easier for family outside the state than for people inside the state.

THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST DISHONEST THING I HAVE SEEN OVER THE YEARS. MY SON HAS BEEN INCARCERATED- and Jail or Prison there is no difference charges are outrageous! Really hard on the family because we feel like we have to have some kind of communication with out loved ones. Even with the companies that offer the 'local call' # ,you have to pay them and also pay the phone service inside the jail/prison. it ends up bing \$40-50 per month. Something should be done and I hope these people in our government will put a stop to this. MY GOOD FRIEND IS CURRENTLY IN THE MIDOC. I THINK THIS ONE OF THE BIGGEST CONS around besides the private prisons. It helps an inmate get through his/her day to be able to talk to a loved one. Or in my friends case to give him words of inspiration when was wrongfully convicted in the first place. I watched a special on Dateline and the prison industry is one of the biggest kickbacks in the U.S. This is predatory behavior and the FCC should protect consumers from this.

It is tough on me to maintain the balance needed for calls. As my friend nears the end of his sentence I am trying to let him call whenever he gets nervous and talk. I even changed my phone number to an exchange nearer to the prison and while it helped, it is still expensive to accept the calls. We pay high rates to begin with and with the company used by WV 20% of what we pay disappears as soon as it is paid with administrative fees, on top of the inflated cost per minute! My son victimized someone, shame on him....I am being victimized by phone companies and prison kickbacks.. shame on you for allowing them to punish me while lining their pockets with my hard earned money. Gouging the families and friends of inmates to funnel money into corporate bank accounts is despicable.

April	Barr	TX
Angelia	Kaess	DE
Susan	Keidan	ot
VERONICA	GONZALES	TX
LYNNE	MELTON	WA
Greta	Blau	CT
Renee	Bennett	TX
Michelle	Sanborn	ME
Denicia	Cadena	NM
Kaiana	Haili	HI
Stacy	Ricketts	SC

Due to the prices of calls, my husband and I do not have much contact through telephone. There have been months at a time when I have not been able to put money on the phone account. They also have unlimited calling now trying to entice people to spend more money. It is hard for those families that do not have the money to spend.

I can not always put money on my account. It would be so much better if the calls were cheaper. Thank you
High phone rates mean that my friend has to choose between calling someone and buying much needed food at the Commissary. He should not need to choose to eat well or talk to his loved ones.
It makes it hard for us to pay the bills. A phone call makes it more esier then driving the 100-400 miles for someone that doesnt have the money to do that.
There should be a set rate for calls. We understand that a prisoner is not your fault but to a loved one and family this is all we have for now.
i live two states away from my loved one and i pay about 80.00 to 150.00 per week for about 10 to 15 calls ,most are not full 15 mins.

It is out of control, with fees to purchase them not to mention taxes!

My husband and I pay 30 cents a minute and talk for about 20 minutes a day. We are luckier than most and are able to pay the rates but the majority of the incarcerated aren't in our position. The money we pay towards phone costs could be spent helping him to meet his basic needs or to pay for the fuel I use every weekend to see him. Sadly the prison likes to talk about the importance of family and connection to the outside world but do everything in their power to hinder it.

As the Spiritual Advisor for our 2000 Native Hawaiian Religious Practitioners locked up in Arizona CCA I pay for all calls from inmates - from 55cents to 95 cents pr minute
My loved one is in Virginia and I am in South Carolina and the calls are about \$12 for one (1) 20 minute call. It is hard to maintain communication by phone with these prices.

Kalyn emma	Santa Ana childers	NM
Katie	Sanmann	SC
joey	santa ana	NM
Rachael	Gurule	NM
Christopher	Childers	
Laurie	Brunner	MA
Avram	Grumer	NY
Edith	Creegan	NY
Alia	Atlas	MA
Peter	Brunner	MD
Nancy	Lebovitz	PA
Nestor	Maiz	PR
Paul	Anderson	NJ
Jacob	Sommer	MA
Tanya	Spackman	DC
Bonnie	Toney	MD
Lisa	Padol	NY
Alan	Thiesen	CA

My daughter is 6 years old and before her grandmother went to prison, she was very active in her life. Leaving was a huge disturbance in her life; she was very confused and constantly cried for her Nana. If my daughter wants to talk to her Nana, we not only have to wait for a phone call, and hope that we are right next to the phone to answer, we have to pay extreme amounts of money to talk to her. My daughter should be allowed to talk to her Nana for as long as she would like, without having to worry about how much money it is going to cost me. Will I be able to put enough food on the table, or buy things that we need, if I let my daughter talk to her Nana?

Far too costly

It costs \$30 for one 20min. Call so we can only talk to our family member once a month.

Way to costly to talk with anyone behind bars on a regular basis missing out on more communication

My Aunt is in prison and would like to speak to her without the huge rates

This doesn't affect me personally, but I hate to see this kind of injustice.

Prison phone rates do not affect me personally. They offend me: we should be encouraging prisoners to be socially connected to people besides other prisoners (criminals), not penalizing them with absurdly high rates.

They don't - but this is unjust and it offends me.

They do not.

Only indirectly-- high prison phone rates make this country a little worse to live in

I know no-one in prison; I object to surcharges on a (literally) captive market.

That which hurts my neighbor, hurts me as well.

They don't affect me personally, but I hate the injustice and profiteering this causes.

This is unjust, and that injustice affects us all.

Heather	Jamieson	OR
Carol	Kennedy	MN
Catherine	Birzer	VA
Lisa	Kays	DC
Mark	Mandel	PA
Jonathan	Baker	NY
andy	van felix	NY
Janet	Anderson	NJ

maintaining contact with my husband was imperative as I was expecting and then a single parent. My husband was incarcerated at a prison an hour from our house and we could not afford to visit more than once a week. I would spend over \$150 a month just to be able to talk to him once a day. That comes in addition to any money that I put into his commissary. Loading money is a cumbersome and expensive process. Family contact and support improves the positive outcomes of incarceration. Each institution that my husband was transferred to had their own phone rates and companies which you were forced to use. If you chose not to do business with the companies you could have no phone contact with your loved one. There are connection charges, different prices depending on which "zone" you live in, variable prices based on the time of day a call is made, charges to load your account with a debit/credit card, a charge to leave a voice message for a prisoner (at one facility), a charge if you keep money on your account for long period of time, and charges to Western Union money to the phone carriers (if you chose not to conduct business via internet or with a credit card). I never received a call from prison until my own husband was incarcerated and I couldn't believe how outlandish the prison phone systems are. At the most vulnerable time in a families life, when maintaining contact is most important, and you have no other choice when it comes to conducting business....these companies are taking advantage of our position and raping us financially when most families are left single parent/single income after incarceration. Shame on the phone companies and shame on our As a person interested in fairness to families. This is wrong, unjust, and unkind. Period.

They are unjust. If my government is acting unjustly, it is my duty as a citizen to try to correct it. What he said. I've known a few inmates - must their families be degraded as the prisoners are? What have the families done, that the government enables phone contractors to steal their money?

One of the things that's wrong with a) the world and b) this country is that everyone asks "does it affect me?" and if the answer is No, doesn't care how outrageous something is. And to kick the families of prisoners while they're already down is definitely outrageous.

Cynthia	Scarpaci	IL	When I originally heard about this, I found it absolutely shameful. Poor people aren't able to contact their love ones because of this gross monopoly. I was incarcerated for 25 years. That means my family and friends had to take these rates in stride if they wanted to keep in contact with me. It makes no sense to me especially as the Department of Corrections spouts lies about how they encourage strengthening family bonds then turn around and send people hundreds of miles away from their families and charge such high prices for telephone calls. Malarkey!
Robert	Swindler	WA	I can not afford to talk to my grandson. He uses his money to call his mom and sister and sometimes me but sometimes we just can't afford to talk to him. He was arrested at 15 and is 19 now. He needs to talk to us just to help him get through the day, week, month, and years.
Cheryle	Abul-Husn	IN	
Raoul	Schonemann	GA	
Kelli	Dorsey	DC	
S	Hernandez	AZ	
Jean	Ornellas	WA	They are taking advantage of our love for our loved ones
Lauren	Smith	CA	
Danyel	Mayer	NM	I can not afford to talk to my love ones at 50 cents per minute. :(
Debbie	Dunn	NM	Directly
Tara	Drapeaux	MD	I want to help families to be able to afford the phone calls to their family member in prison.
Jennifer	Garcia	NM	The rates have made it difficult to stay in contact with family.
Melissa	Castillo	MI	Families need to be able to afford the phone calls to their family member in prison.
Joyce	Steele	IL	We are struggling financially so we seldom have money for the father to two little children to be in contact with their dad. They miss their dad and should be able to speak to him.
Allan	Poobus	WA	They don't affect me directly. I just think that current telephone rate policy is outrageous and wrong. You know, you can always write. If you are illiterate, someone can read/write for you.
Tabitha	Metreger	MI	
CURE ILLINOIS	Madeleine Ward	IL	
Thandi	Chimureng	CA	they affect me because i don't accept them! i am unable to connect with loved ones in this way because i simply cannot afford to!
Carole	Eady	NY	It breaks my heart that children won't get to talk to their incarcerated parent if they can't pay price gougers!

Sandra Tuinstra	Tuinstra	MI	<p>We have a son who has a severe mental illness ion prison. He needs our support and assurance to deal with his illness and calls us several times a day. My husband just retired and these calls are not affordable, yet we feel they are necessary to maintain our son's mental stability.</p> <p>to put money on the phone for my husband, I panic every time the money runs low. Just like everyone else I worry about my loved ones safety and literally can't rest until I can hear his voice to put my mind at ease. With high traveling expenses, hotel/motel fees and food I can only afford to visit my husband a few times a year. With that being said, our few moments of telephone time has to serve as our main lines of communication, especially when the mail system moving slower these days and some information can't wait the 3-5 "standard" shipping days until it arrives to the prison (that is before the mail room processes and sorts through the mail)... Just think how would you feel besides your regular phone bills you also had to pay another fee that possibly double you home phone bill just to hear I love you a few times a month?</p> <p>I am on a fixed income and the costs are exorbitant. A phone call is the only way for me to speak to my son who is in a prison over 300 miles away. The money I use could be spent on food or other necessities.</p>
Karen	Cartwright-Williams	NY	
Anita	Wills	CA	
Jill	Huettich	OH	
Laure	McElroy	TN	<p>I have a good friend in prison. Contact is the only thing that keeps him sane. I write, but the grace of hearing a voice really gets him through.</p> <p>NOT AT ALL ..BUT I SEE AND I HEAR ABOUT THIS ,AND I BELIEVE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES SHOULD COME FIRST ,BEFORE THESE SCAM KICKBACKS. IT IS PLAIN ROBBERY FROM THESE FAMILIES. I WANT PRISON PHONE JUSTICE FOR THESE FAMILIES.</p> <p>I want to help. People in prison need to keep connection with friends and families. It is criminal to gouge them for money at this time.</p> <p>I have had to refuse many calls and have to worry about how my son is doing. I am very lucky to get to share a ride every other Sunday to see him. The phone calls are extremely important to have some peace of mind just hearing his voice knowing he is ok.</p>
MARIE	BURKHART	KY	
Nell	Cox	KY	
Janiece	Hernandez	KS	
Sydney	Levy	CA	
Hafidha	Acuay	WA	
patricia	lynch	VA	<p>They are to expensive I have to pay out at least 75.00 to 100.00 a month.</p>

Terry	Smith	VA
Rebecca	Bordt	IN
Rosalind	Burbank Joseph	NY
Mark	Levine	NY

As an activist often working with low budget nonprofits, I chafe at the gouging and unpredictable costs of collect calls from inmates, that may run \$5 to \$20 for relatively short calls. While there is a need to constrain government and corporate extortion in both gouging prison phone rates, and conditions intended to cripple use of OpenSIP or local PSTN to VOIP portals, the rates suggested in the pending "Wright petition" are still absurdly high. Technology has shifted rapidly, with nearly all telephone traffic handled as data, and most real world connections now "postalized", unlike archaic per minute rate plans for POTS time and distance tariffs. It should be recognized that ZERO cents per minute is the reality of phone connections currently, not just for local calls, but cross country and to most of the world. Any charge above that, local or long distance, should be honestly specified as extortion, bribery, or surveillance charges, and not tolerated being billed as fraudulent supposed phone network fees. A visitor to India now pays \$20 for a 1,000 minute prepaid SIM card, that can plug into any ordinary GSM phone. That service is cheap enough that rickshaw operators compete to take requests for service by telephone. That service includes calls back to the USA, much as AT&T would like to gouge victims \$20 for just a few minutes. I'm in regular contact with Peace Corps volunteers and researchers in third world country regions with no electricity or indoor plumbing. They have to pay about \$10 a Gigabyte for 3G cel modem data, useful for email, XMPP chat clients, and otherwise free SIP-VOIP voice using DS0 rate CODECs. That typically amounts to \$0.006 per minute for metered wireless data, or free at times in VSAT or DSL linked offices or conference sites, for voice calls whose quality is often higher than local dial lines. That more expensive fractional cent per minute wireless data is handled by physical facilities owned and operated by New York Stock Exchange listed American Tower, the same company that actually owns and maintains many AT&T sites and those used by some of its competitors around the USA, where infrastructure and local trained technicians make operations less costly than when third world locations require shipping in personnel and support facilities. There is no excuse not properly prosecuted as criminal fraud for prison phone rates to exceed telecom costs to or from difficult to access third world locations by 1000 percent, and often much more. The Friend in prison

Jeanette	Pineda	NY
Wendy	Ewald	NY
Ramona Josephina Denise LaComodi	Wildcard Sanchez Hinkle	VA

I have to not only pay for calls prior to receiving them, but also charged \$8 to prepay for the calls. So, I'm paying for calls to pay for calls. they don't

Danielle	McManus	VA
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They are outrageous-PERIOD! writing yes its an option and an option that IS utilized but at the same time, prison is like a military deployment- somewhere you rather not be and being able to speak to loved ones helps you mentally make your way through it partially. Gov. is just always trying to get over-for the people though? yea but for WHICH people!?

Valerie	Cartonio	XX
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I am a prison advocate and work with pre-release planning. Also, when they are arrested and at the county jails, they call us collect, to contact family (who either have only cell phones or home phones that can not accept collect calls.) In Maine, we have some of the highest rates.

Linda	steinberger	ID
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It is outrageous and should be illegal that inmate's families have to pay gouging prices to talk to their loved ones that are incarcerated!! Unfortunately, those in power to force changes or laws set this as a low prioty or don't give a damn!! All prison families need to join together and contact their state Governors!! Families, come out of the woodwork and lets get something done.

Rachel	Rubin	MA
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I know how important it was to my family to talk to my brother while he was incarcerated. It helped us maintain a family structure that, in turn, helped him re-socialize after his release.

Beatrice	Codianni	CT
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I know how important communicating with one's family while incarcerated is for successful reentry. Study after study has shown that inmates who have the opportunity to connect with their families fare far better when released than those who don't. Successful reentry corresponds to increased public safety. It makes sense to cut the cost of phone calls in prison.

Alicia	Ward	VA
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outrageous, but we needed to talk with him to encourage him to stay focused, to let him know how much we loved him, and to give him an outlet for the frustrations he faced. Letters can keep people in touch, but they aren't the same as a real time conversation. People who haven't lived through the nightmare of having a loved one imprisoned do not realize the HUGE financial and emotional ramifications for the entire family. Remember there are men and women in prison who NEVER get a phone call OR a letter from anyone. My son and I remain in touch with some of the men whose paths crossed his in prison. They all remain incarcerated and one of them has no contact with anyone outside except for us. Reach out to these folks to let them know that YOU care about them and value them as a child of God.

kalisha Gaurav	coats Kumar	MI NY	<p>Sometimes paying to speak with my loved one means choosing between buying food or staying connected.</p> <p>My fiancée has been gone for over a year now, and we have two kids, one he has only met through pictures. It's so hard to take care of our kids and talk to him when we need to. Money needed for our kids goes to him so he doesn't get really depressed not being able to talk to us. The amount of money you spend for so few minutes to talk. Ridiculous it all is.</p> <p>When my brothers and sisters end up trapped in institutional and structural racism - if I am silent I become part of this racist system. Not me!!! I don't happen to know anyone in prison, but basic decency demands that they and their families not be taken advantage of in this cruel way. It's vital that they maintain connection with the world outside!</p>
Miranda	Jones	IN	
Salvador	Miranda	MN	
Elizabeth Stephanie	Saenger Greenlea	NY CT	
Michael	Jordan	NY	<p>New York has now signed on with a different carrier and the rates are much more reasonable, but the county where I live still uses a carrier with high rates. They affect the families of those incarcerated and that is enough for me. These families should not be preyed upon by the prison telephone industry. Families should be first period.</p> <p>It limits the time I can talk and it makes it harder to feel a connection. I hate not having money to pay these huge bills. My cell phone and land line are reasonable this makes no sense.</p> <p>I am not able to afford the high cost of telephone service through the Maryland Department of Correction's bogus conspiracy with these telephone industry.</p> <p>Therefore, I can only talk with my son every three months or more, and because he is incarcerated about 3 hours from my home, I don't get to visit him often. It affected and my family, because the prices are too high. To communicate my son in prison help him a lot to keep his sanity and structure to help him on moving ahead and keeping a straight head. So when he gets release his head is on straight. And also knowing that he has someone by his side.</p> <p>I have a son and a grandson incarcerated, and I believe the rates I have to pay to talk to them a predatory practice that drains their loved ones financially and emotionally.</p> <p>I pay at least \$300 @ month for phone calls. And I was just thinking about getting an iPhone but with the cost of the calls I can't afford to have another bill of an \$100.</p>
Penny	Smart	AR	
JoEllen	Berryman	NY	
Vivian	Penda	MD	
Judy Ridgeway	Ridgeway	VA	
Tressa Jefferson	Jefferson	VA	
laquanda Erin Amanda	lee Howley Payne	VA PA NC	

Jaime Madiha	Myers-McPhail Qureshi	CT MD	They are astronomical and amount to gouging and usury. I'm disgusted with the prison phone companies in MS gouging already poor families and forcing inmates to take risks such as acquiring a cell phone in prison just to talk to family and friends and loved ones. Many of the locked up are juveniles/children who can't talk to family due to the exorbitant phone costs. I've had \$700/month phone bills helping a juvenile in MS work on his appeals. I'm a juvenile justice advocate but his family would not be able to afford those phone calls leaving him without any hope for legal help. Disgusting.
Pamela Liane	Kulig Rozzell	IL VA	Directly, not at all. Just asking for decency. I have no family in prison and I am not short of money but I know what is justice.
Andrew Madison Donna Ken teresa	Conn Van Oort Porterfield Knabb phillips	NY MN VA CA GA	take food out of my mouth and run behind on bills \$4.85 for a 15 minute phone call. That amounts to robbery and the companies involved should go to the very jails they serve! Cost is high, time is limited, sound quality is very poor. I am losing touch with my son and he is losing his connection with the world outside the walls. Terribly. I am in virginia Beach and my husband is in jarrett virginia yet even though we are in same state I still must pay \$6.99 for a 15 minute phone call.
Keith	Condict	GA	Crazy
Kathryn	Curran	CO	I have to make almost daily decisions and pay charges for our daughter to keep our phone account on so that we can hear his voice and stay connected. I've used all my resources to keep this phone account on. We've tried rationing out the calls, skipping days, sending messages through other family members, but to no avail. It is simply too much for me to carry. We've already been denied his presence in our daily life, now we are denied his voice during dinner time or when the school bus drops off our daughter. Isolation like this is counterproductive to his rehabilitation! This system is crooked and these phone companies are robbers!!
Debi	Goff	VA	We live in another state and can not visit very often. Our calls cost us almost \$20.00 for a 15 min call. We are on a fixed income and this makes it very hard to stay connected to our love one.
Lisa	Wheeler	NC	
ELAINE	MCINTYRE	AL	

Russell Walsmith Rael	Glenn Silva	CA CA	To allow these kinds of ripoffs is detrimental to the fabric of society... 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'
Anthony C.	Scott	VA	I have a mentee who was recently arrested, it cost a minimum of \$15.00 dollars per telephone call. I live on a limited s.sl. and by accepting these calls i barley have enough to survie off , i take the calls because of the sistuation that ny son is in he is located in a max security at north branch correctional institution ,in cumberland maryland ,they are onley allow 1houre in the moring and ahour in the evening ,out of their cells to help him keep his sanity these calls are very muchy needed i live on a limited s.sl. and by accepting these calls i barley have enough to survie off , i take the calls because of the sistuation that ny son is in he is located in a max security at north branch correctional institution ,in cumberland maryland ,they are onley allow 1houre in the moring and ahour in the evening ,out of their cells to help him keep his sanity these calls are very muchy needed
corrine	stanley	MD	My brother uses his limited funds to prepay for calls he makes. I would accept collect calls, but he feels the need to be responsible. It costs him dearly. I pay PCS (Michigan Dept of Corrections) \$50-60 every other week to speak to my husband who is incarcerated
corrine	stanley	MD	My husband is incarcerated in Michigan State. Our calls used to cost nearly \$20 for 15 minutes. A few years ago that was reduced and now we pay just under \$5 for 15 minutes. To keep our relationship close and healthy we talk daily and sometimes twice in a day. Our phone bill is about \$175 to \$200 a month. A friend in NY pays 3 cents a minute to keep her family in touch with her husband in prison. We need to work to KEEP families together, not tear them apart. Keeping our phone rates at real world rates reduces violence, reduces recidivism and greatly improves the odds for the children of the prisoners not becoming future prisoners themselves.
V.	Pearson	AL	
Susan	Schultz	MI	
Juli Naomi	Sipe Ishisaka	WA WA	
ELois	Poole-Clayton	IL	The fees are TO high, for ANYONE who needs to have contact with their lovedones!
Stacia Carol	Quarto Gallivan	NM NY	i was in prison and all my money othgerwise u go crazy and ur life really goes to shiy all the way
Gail Alex	Jordan Fish	GA OR	I don't get to talk to my nephew. The costs are too high. The prison system is a racket oppressing not only the incarcerated but the families connected to them.

Barbara	Helie	GA	my son, We talk almost every day. This is extremely important as his sister and I are his link to the "free world" and without it, he would become more and more institutionalized every day. I am nearing retirement and have used my savings to keep this link with my son alive. He has almost been killed in prison at least 3 times (sometimes he won't even tell me when something happens). Talking to him daily is what has kept our relationship alive and truth be known, kept him alive as well. I am able to calm him down and remind him that his goal is to survive this and return to his family and the free world. The high cost of the calls keeps most from staying connected with their loved ones, even though it has been proven that staying connected with family has the largest impact on both in prison behavior and decrease in recidivism after release. Our son spent 10 years in prison in Texas and they did not allow phone calls at all. Personally we have not had the experience but have a number of friends who do both in NM and Colorado. The price gouging needs to stop as family communication is important . If the prisoner has family support they are much more likely to succeed whn released.
Elena Bost	Treers	NM	My fiance is in alabama we are in illinois so he is not able to talk to me or his son who is 21 months but once a week or every two weeks
lindsey	Boston	IL	They affect me, my community, my city and state by creating unjust obstacles between prisoners and their families, thereby condemning prisoners and their families to fractured relationships that can take years to rebuild.
Susanne	[not provided]	TX	They used to and I feel for current people affected by the this robbery.
Andrea	Davis	GA	Daughter in prison
Anita	Smith	PA	
Helen	Paredes	MI	My husband is 5 hours away in the Upper Peninsula so seeing him is very costly. Paying for phone calls is just as costly but the only way to have personal contact. IT DOESNT AFFECT ME NOW BUT 4 THE PAST 5 YEARS I SPENT SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN PHONE TIME 2 TALKED 2 MY LOVED ONES THAT WERE BEHIND BARS...i DONT FEEL ITS RiGHT THAT THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT THEY KNOW WE WOULD PAY WHATEVER WE HAD 2 IN ORDER 2 TALK 2 OUR LOVED ONES & i BELIEVE iT NEEDS 2 COME 2 AN END...
Jerzi	Lynn	NV	If they effect my brother or sister they effect me!!
June Quarfordt	Quarfordt	NY	Need to build a more equitable society-'a more perfect Union'--for all.Period.
Rochelle	Carothers	NM	

JoEllen jefferson lee	Berryman coy	NY OH	<p>It is obscene that they take advantage of the families. The system punishes the innocent. We want prisoners to come out and be good citizens and connection to the outside world is an important part of that equation. Many families cannot afford the phone calls and go years without speaking to their families and friends. I think this price gouging needs to be corrected.</p> <p>the phones rates are more criminal then the inmates trying to call home They don't. But, I feel for people that are being raped to keep in touch with their families for corporate profit. Unbelievable. - it's sick. I will be contacting my representatives directly, as well.</p> <p>I was previously incarcerated and unable to communicate with friends or family because of exorbitant rates charged by jail/prison phone systems. Nobody writes letters these days - all communications these days are electronic.</p> <p>I am not currently,and hope that this is never a personal problem,for me.Some friends,and family members however aren't so lucky.Also just the general public deserves my support to make this a decent country again,and stop the over profiteering practices of these mega corporations,that most likely outsource everything through other countries,and claim to be supporting the American economy.It's easy for people to pass judgment on those who are beneath them economically,and say they could do this or that,but If you've ever been without any means of financial support,other than your own,and trying to raise a family,you'd understand any extra \$ really helps.Yes poor people often have addictions,to tobacco,and other drugs which makes no sense unless you were raised around all that,and worse sometimes.Point being,we all deserve better treatment,by the business that we rely on,and who rely on us.Thank you,and As a Christian I cannot stand by in silence as the greedy take advantage of the poor or helpless. Shame on those who participate in or allow this disgraceful practice.</p>
Jennifer	Kastigar	WI	
Erick	Charette	TX	
robert	gaulding	CA	
Leroy Lena	Casterline Heflin	WY KS	
Constance	McClellan		<p>Not personally involved, but I understand the importance of prisoners maintaining connections with family and friends.</p> <p>I HAVE A FRIEND WHO I REGULARLY SEND \$ TO BECAUSE I KNOW IT IS VERY EXPENSIVE TO call and he gets paid THIRTEEN CENTS AN HOUR FOR "WORK". We already have an incarceration industry that puts tens of thousands of non-violent offenders in prison at the cost of something like \$30,000 a year. Legislators talk about costs, but they let this kind of egregious behavior continue. SO SO SO UNFAIR. Pretend just once to actually work for citizens and not corporate interests. Robert Trenary</p>
Robert	Trenary	MI	

Vicky	James	CA	My daughter has been incarcerated, and the importance of being able to talk to family members is VERY important. Fortunately we've been able to pay for her collect calls, but there are others who's families can't... I know, I've heard stories from my daughter about the heartbreak these women/girls go through BECAUSE they can't talk to family! This issue effects every citizen in the United States Or America for 60 years our Justice system and Federal Government has chosen profit over people. It seems to always start with the imprisoned, the disenfranchised, and the poor. However it reach every other citizen at some point. We live here but they treat us like we don't matter. Well we do matter and we take action. Dawa Freeman I am a volunteer who goes into the California State Prison system and I am very aware of how vital it is for inmates to be able to be in phone contact with their families.
Dawa	Freeman	OR	
Alice	Filmer	CA	
Sekou	Ford	OR	
Jill	Short	CA	My only child has been in prison for over a decade now, and because I am disabled and on a fixed income, I cannot take his collect calls any longer, because I will lose my telephone if I do since the rates are so outrageously high! They do not affect me directly, but injustices to anyone affect all of us in some way. This kind of exploitation needs to stop. Son in prison and the prison phone company is one of my big expenses. It is a lifeline to the outside. Profiting off the incarcerated should be criminal in a free society.
Gladys	Schmitz	MN	
Janet	Innes-Kirkwood	CA	
Scott	Collier	CA	These are people who already have very little. Their families should not be made to suffer for the sake of corporate profits and kickbacks ("commissions"). I have been ripped off by these cupidity driven slimeballs. Its well past time to regulate them and bring their rates back down to earth and end all the kickbacks and gouging.
s	scales	TX	My daughter did time and she was very young. She is doing good now, but we are not wealthy people, and the prison system has created it's own profit making industry between the phone and commesary money makers, she didn't have a chance to ever be comfortable or stay in touch with her family... It was very difficult.
Lisa	Beacham	CA	It is simply heartless to cut people off from the support of those they love. People may have to do time but that doesn't mean they should be dehumanized or oppressed. If we believe in rehabilitation at all, we cannot cut people off from the community outside of jails.
V.	Perkins	IL	
Megan	Johnson	CA	
Renee	Hurst	OH	

Deborah Soleil Joseph	Frederick Ho van der Naald	FL LA OR	There isn't any reason why the prison rates should be higher than the regular rates the rest of us pay. You're mostly punishing the family members who bear those high costs.
emily	keel	NC	As a citizen, I am just appalled at the greed of phone companies. We should be trying to keep prisoners connected with their support systems to keep them motivated to reform. Injustice toward anyone in society affects everyone in society. What is right and honorable is not always most profitable, and corporate interests should not come before the rights of prisoners to be treated no differently than non-prisoners except for the terms of their sentence.
Alan Alan	Trullinger Young	HI HI	My brother has a hard time keeping in touch with the family because of the exorbitant rates of calling from prison. Calling family encourages him, gives him hope and motivates him to move back into a productive citizen role.
Jim Laurie ronald	Eliason mazza maxson	CA CO CA	I have a relative incarcerated in Pennsylvania. The high rates and restrictive policies has limited our contact with each other. I have a loved one in prison in Washington and it costs \$3.66 for a 20 minute phone call. If you are disconnected or hang up early, it still costs \$3.66. If you live out of state, the calls cost over \$15. The high cost of calls makes staying in touch difficult and puts a strain on my finances.
Mike	Merritt	CA	My husband is in jail and in order to talk to him it cost \$10.00 everytime he calls and right now is when he needs me and to talk to me the most. Everyone makes mistakes, any of you who have not been arrested it is just because you did not get caught and you know that if you are honest with yourselves. Very expensive and abusive as we correspond with many inmates through our activist work. ConCare Services I'm concerned about the injustice and if prison is to be rehabilitative nothing is more important than keeping people connected to their families and community. Can't afford to talk with my love ones. It is just too expensive. I've been taking advantage of before by these companies. It just don't make any sense. Definitely an injustice to the family budget.
Kimberly Ed	Gisler Good	CA PA	
Sandra	Lerma	CA	
Joan	Covici	TX	
Gordon	Quinn	IL	
Sabrina	Moore	NY	

Michael	Fraser	TX
Donald	Goodman	NY
Deborah	Golden	DC
Nathaniel	Smithey	IL
Clarissa	Ramon	DC
Nancy	Gray	MI
kathryn	kinney	KS
Mary	Costa	MD
Danielle	Mkali	MN
Rebecca	Swope	PA
Joan	Whitaker	MA
Elizabeth	Matos	MA
Haywood	Fennell	MA

it doesn't affect me directly, but I'm aware of how difficult it can be for families to contact their incarcerated members. A close friend of mine has repeatedly brought her cousins to see their father in prison, and, pretty much consistently, they have had to wait hours at the prison in order to see him. In these situations, my friend has often been disallowed from getting to see her uncle, with prison staff citing her appearance as being "inappropriate," regardless of how modestly she was dressed.

when I was a young boy my mother was imprisoned for felony drug charges. I was raised by my grandmother and we could only accept 2 calls per month because of the exorbitant cost. I think it averaged 30 dollars per call in the 90's. I can only assume it is more now. It was heart breaking for a 12 year old boy to not have communication with his mother because of corporate greed. I'm glad to support this petition to end this shameful practice.

My brother cannot call very often. These rates are ridiculous. the calls are super high and makes it hard to deal with the already hard situation my son is a mental patient in a forensic institution. He was allowed to "walk on the campus". He made one call from the US Marshalls Office from 3 states away. I tried to keep tabs on him and make sure he was getting his medications for 3 months. It cost me \$35 deposit each time I called a different state. In OK I had to "but" an OK phone number. The whole system is impossible and a money making system. that takes advantage of the desperation of those who have to use it.

CURE-Women Incarcerated
Our clients, most of whom live at the poverty level, who have family and friends incarcerated have a difficult time paying high phone bills and meeting their daily economic needs. It is imperative that inmates maintain family and social support networks to assist with their re-entry to the community. Our clients and their families face multiple barriers in their daily lives. Struggling to pay excessively high phone rates to maintain communication that is both healthy and necessary for positive rehabilitation is not only unnecessary, but it's bad policy. Having more reasonable phone rates will directly benefit our clients and have a positive ripple effect in the communities they return to. Unable to communicate with friends due to the very high cost.

Alphonse	Kamanzi	MA	Our clients need need to communicate with their families and friends as a way of maintaining contact with the outside World. This would certainly contribute to their rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. We have family members who are incarcerated, who cannot call their family members because of the expense. This also limits a families ability to help defend their family member.
Carol Brandy	Ammons Doyle	IL DC	
paul	wright	VT	they prevented me from communicating with my friends and family when I was in prison and today they are a barrier to communicating with prisoners about human rights issues in the American gulag. When my husband was incarcerated for something he didn't do, the rates to call me 3 times a day was ridiculous and the rates were horrendous. People can't afford this it needs to be looked into and readjusted to what is fair and affordable.
daria Christopher	miedzinski Mitchell	CT MN	They weaken the bonds of families in my community. The phone rates impact my practitioners incarcerated in Arizona and trying to maintain contact with their families, nearly six thousand miles away in Hawaii. Constantly changing phone carriers also confuses and increase expenses.
Kaiana Erick Monica B george nassima	Haili Boustead Velasquez d brabant kaddoura	HI MN TX CA NC CA	
Khanh Lee	Pham Lofgren	OR MN	I believe that ALL families have a right to talk to one another, without being price-gouged.
Chris	Magnusson	WA	I have seen how hard it is for inmates to establish community connection prior to release. I think the obscene rates benefit nobody other than the profiteers who add to individuals', families', and social misery.
Eleasha	Hilliard	CA	Since TelMate won the contract for providing telephone systems for prisoners in Oregon the costs have dropped dramatically; however, the fees associated with a 30 minute phone call are still expensive and make up for a huge chunk of our family's monthly budget. Studies show that inmates who are in contact with their families and support groups have a better chance of making it when they get out. I believe that regular contact with family and support systems also provide the inmate with greater peace. Greater peace equals less institutional violence.

NICOLE	SMITH	GA	Had a loved ones in prison but now is citizen fighting for fair and equal rights for everyone including those in prison.
Mary	Donley	TX	MLK said that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. This doesn't
rebecca	rodriguez	NY	affect me directly but I think it is outrageous that prisoners and their families are
Odette	Rodriguez	NY	taken advantage of by predatory phone charges!
			they don't.
			I am unable to accept calls
			I work with detainees (minors and adults) and see how their families struggle to
			make ends meet, how they suffer when they don't know where their detained
			family members are, and the toll that the absence of communication due to
			exorbitant costs takes on families and communities.
susan	cruz	MD	
Manuel	O'Neill	VT	
			I once had to communicate with a convicted felon whose mother had no phone
			and was illiterate. THE COST WAS OUTRAGEOUS and I eventually had to
Roberto	Soto	PR	pull out of the arrangement, effectively ending mother-son communication.
Sharon	Zapata	AZ	The rates make it difficult to keep in touch with family.
			The Latino's unemployment rate, incomes and general status during these times
gladys	figueroa	NY	should make over priced phone calls an issue worth looking into.
Sonia	Lee	OH	I cannot talk regularly with a friend of mine who is in prison.
Jusselia	Molina	NJ	
			Presently, prison phone rates do not affect me; however, I want to show support
			to the families who are affected by same. In the past, I have had relatives
			incarcerated and always felt rushed while speaking with them over the phone due
			to not getting high telephone bill.
Rafaela	Vasquez	NY	
Mariana	Vergara	NJ	
			Telephone companies should charge the same rate regardless if the call is from or
jose	loyola	AZ	to a prison. Kickbacks are illegal and should be prohibited and prosecuted!
Laila	Johnson	WA	
Marina	Ortiz	NY	family.
			They do not affect me personally, although I know and have known many in my
			own ethnic and local community who are negatively affected by these rates. Not
			only are they yet another form of legalized thievery, but they are a race and
			ethnic-specific predatory practice. Nothing less.
Reynolds	Mulero	NY	It does not affect me now and it has never affected me in the past, thank God.
			However, justice is justice and these individuals should not be denied justice
			regardless of the circumstances.
Alfrida	Vasquez-Coombs	MA	
Beatriz	Sosa-Prado	CA	